



Consultation, IA <consultation@bia.gov>

1076-AF18: Support and Suggestions

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Dear good people,

I want to write briefly to support the direction of the proposed changes in the process for Federal Acknowledgment of tribes, especially the elimination of the external identification in the criteria "A." The new rules in general will provide more fairness and transparency and these are always good things.

There is of course often room for improvement and I'd like to offer a small number of suggestions for your consideration.

- 1) It should be clearly stated as a guideline that the each criteria should be read and applied in a manner favoring the petitioner.
- 2) The preamble should include language that indicates that prior negative FAP decisions should not be used to interpret the terms of these new revised regulations.
- 3) Similarly, the definitions section should be referenced in the review of an application in order to safeguard the spirit of the new regulations.
- 4) The use of "tribal rolls" needs to be clarified. The historical situation of many tribes would not include formal rolls during certain periods of history, including the latter 19th and early 20th centuries.
- 5) Third parties should not have veto over the reapplication of tribes which had previously been denied due to the efforts of the very same such third parties. They should be given notice and granted standing in the review of a previously denied petitioner reapplying, but there should be some standard of proof that must be required with the petitioner's ability to respond.

Finally, in a related matter, I wanted to clearly state my support of the Choctaw-Apache Community of Ebarb in their decades-long quest for federal recognition.

Thank you in advance for the time and attention you pay toward these suggestions and for the work you do to move the US government's relationship with indigenous nations and peoples towards a more ethical footing.

Sincerely,

Michael David Sasson
former president, Coalition of University Employees Local #3 (now part of IBT #2010)

